

## ABSTRACT

An image processing apparatus includes an edge  
detecting portion for detecting an edge area of an input  
5 image signal and a lightness and chroma detecting portion  
for detecting a low lightness and low chroma area of the  
input image signal. An image processing such as edge  
emphasizing is performed for the edge area of black letters  
or lines decided by the detection signals of the edge  
10 detecting portion and the chroma detecting portion. The  
image processing apparatus further includes an edge  
enlarging portion 6 for enlarging the edge area detected by  
the edge detecting portion 4 and circuits 12 and 19 for  
converting color image data C, M and Y and black image data  
15 K so that C, M and Y color densities in the enlarged edge  
area is decreased and a black densities is increased. Thus,  
supporting a high definition, color drift in the edge  
portions of the black letters or lines of the color image  
becomes inconspicuous, so that the reproducing quality is  
20 improved.

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